

Message from President Cook

July 13, 2022

Hello everyone and greetings from the North Dakota State University Central Grassland Research Extension Center in Streeter. This is our first stop of our two-week tour of North Dakota Field Days so pretty excited. I got in a car this morning in Fargo with Greg Lardy, Matt Larsen, John Glover, and Colleen Fitzgerald and we're all working our way across the state so it's going to be a lot of fun.

From Streeter I head to Bismarck a meeting with Governor Burgum and doing an alumni gathering later this evening and then really like I said just traveling, crisscrossing the state, for the rest of this week and we're going to redo it again next week. But for this week we're going to head to Standing Rock Reservation, Sitting Bull College, the Hettinger, Dickinson, and Williston REC's and along the way, we'll be meeting with a bunch of legislators, alumni, and citizens.

So, it's going to be a lot of fun. I'm really looking forward to meeting a lot of people and the theme for me for the next couple of weeks is going to be listening and learning a lot about what North Dakota State can do for the great state of North Dakota. So, excited to take this journey.

Shifting from that a little bit I think this is a little on the inside baseball front but for those of you working on campus, some of you will start to get contacted by Huron Consulting. We're just continuing all the academic prioritization work that began before I got on board and just looking a little bit more about the mechanics of how our budgets work. This is not in any way a efficiency study but it's really just helping us get a sense of how we do our budgets, how our finances worked. Really prepare us for where we want to go really based on a lot of the lessons learned from that academic prioritization process. So, not a huge deal but important if people start to hear about it I thought it would be helpful to at least mention that.

So, really on a fun note, there's a lot of cool things happening and a lot of kudos to share in terms of the great work that our faculty, staff, and students are doing. So, I'll just running through the list congratulations first to mechanical engineering senior Max Salzer. He was awarded the prestigious Astronaut Scholarship. I'm familiar with that scholarship. That's a very big deal. Kudos to him, very excited for him and the work that he's doing there.

Another prestigious win for us again for our students we were part of a team that won second place at the Audience Choice Award for the project "Water is Life: Water Access in the Navajo Nation," at the global Map System Competition all the way over in Oxford England at Oxford University. Another thing that when I read it and learned about it I was just blown away by so kudos to them very excited and proud of that.

Continuing on the cool things our students are doing, thrilled to recognize Breeya Pederson as the first NDSU student to complete the agricultural and biosystems engineering accelerated master's degree program. So, a great example of us standing up a new program that meets kind of workforce need along with real important research interests for us. So proud that we got that launched and up and running.

So, and then you know finally, and there's more kudos out there, but just end on a really exciting note I want to say congratulations to Sanku Mallik, a professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and Sathish Venkatachalem on their two-million-dollar HHS award for pancreatic cancer research. So that is a very big deal for us and something we all should be very proud of. This Center is funded by the NIH so the National Institute of Health Center of Bio Biomedical Research Excellence or what we call COBRE program which is focused on developing early detection and therapeutical protocols for controlling pancreatic cancer and so those COBRE awards are critical because they bring a lot of research and faculty and colleagues together across various colleges. To me, it's the kind of thing you just want to build on and you want to give people credit where credit is due because that's a significant win for us.

Something we can really be very proud of so that kind of multi-disciplinary initiative and research is the kind of big, kind of initiative that helps us tackle these big world challenges like in this case dealing with the devastating impact of pancreatic cancer. So very, very proud of the work they're doing there and kudos are well deserved.

You know beyond that like I said just need to get back to Field Days, and having a ball. I've met faculty out here, students, a number of people from the community, and just continuing to listen and learn and so got an exciting day, an exciting week, an exciting two weeks ahead so I look forward to checking back in with all of you and hopefully, I will see many of you as I travel across the state and Go Bison!